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ABSTRACT

This book sets out a straightforward prescription for the schools that centers on the value of the individual teacher and rejects the billion-dollar school reform industry. The book argues that enormous monies and millions of hours of effort have gone into reforming U.S. schools in the past 10 years, with little to show for it. It indicated that great teachers are the secret to making better schools. It identifies the qualities of great teaching, with stories from actual schools and with practical advice for parents, teachers, and students who want to support the best teachers. It also takes a serious look at what the schools must do to recruit and reward the best teachers in the coming era of teacher shortages. The book is divided into seven chapters: (1) "The State of Our Schools, and the Big Lie of School Reform"; (2) "Keeping It Real: Education and Dialogue"; (3) "Making It New: Education as Experiment"; (4) "Recruiting and Retaining the Right Teachers"; (5) "Why Lasting Change Always Comes from the Bottom Up and Inside Out"; (6) "How to Make Change--Some Do's and Don'ts for Teachers, Administrators, and Parents"; and (7) "Everyone's Work." Attached is a section on "Suggested Reading." (BT)

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